

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

546 ~~5~~ Claims 1-5 (Withdrawn).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) An image decoding device which decodes an encoded bit stream formed by encoding images for each object, comprising:

5' display speed information decoding means for decoding a header information area of the encoded bit stream to restore ~~object display speed information from said encoded bit stream,~~ the display speed information being included as a codeword in a the header information area for a layer that is above a VOP and comprising a plurality of VOPs, to indicate a number of VOPs displayed per a unit time ~~data sets, a codeword indicating a number of objects displayed per a unit time; and~~

control means for controlling the reconstruction of said encoded images encoded for each object, based on said ~~decoded~~ object display speed information restored by decoding.

Claim 7: (Original) The image decoding device of claim 6, wherein said display speed information decoding means decodes said object display speed information for each object.

Claim 8: (Original) The image decoding device of claim 6,

wherein: said display speed information decoding means decodes said object display speed information from said encoded bit stream for each object; and said control means controls said image reconstruction, depending upon whether the object display speed indicated by said decoded object display speed information is a fixed or variable speed.

E' **Claim 9:** (Original) The image decoding device of claim 8, wherein: said display speed information decoding means decodes said object display speed information from said encoded bit stream for each object; and said control means controls said image reconstruction by specifying the display time of each image on the basis of the value of said object display speed in said decoded object display speed information when said object display speed information decoded by said display speed information decoding means indicates a fixed speed, and on the basis of display time information multiplexed for each image when said decoded object display speed information indicates a variable speed.

**Claim 10:** (Original) The image decoding device of claim 6, wherein: said display speed information decoding means decodes said object display speed information from said encoded bit stream for each object; and said control means controls said image

E reconstruction by specifying the display time of each object on the basis of said object display speed information when said object display speed information decoded by said display speed information decoding means indicates a fixed speed and said fixed speed is a value indicated by said object display speed information, on the basis of display time information multiplexed for each image when said decoded object display speed information indicates a fixed speed and said fixed speed is not indicated as a specific value, and on the basis of said display time information multiplexed for each image when said decoded object display speed information indicates a variable speed.

**Claim 11:** (Original) The image decoding device of claim 6, wherein said control means is provided with: decoding time specifying means for specifying object decoding time on the basis of the decoded object display speed information decoded by the display speed information decoding means and object display speed information preset in the decoding device; and decoding means for performing object decoding on the basis of the object decoding time specified by said decoding time specifying means.

**Claims 12-19:** (Withdrawn).

**Claim 20** (Currently Amended) An image encoding method for decoding an encoded bit stream formed by encoding images for each object, comprising the steps of:

decoding a header information area of the encoded bit stream to restore ~~object~~ display speed information ~~from said encoded bit stream~~, the display speed information being included~~ing~~, as a codeword in a the header information area for a layer that is above a VOP and comprises~~ing~~ a plurality of VOP, to indicate a number of VOPs displayed per a unit time ~~data sets, a codeword indicating a number of objects displayed per a unit time; and~~

reconstructing said encoded images encoded for each object, based on said ~~decoded~~ object display speed information restored by decoding.

**Claim 21:** (Previously Added) The image decoding method according to claim 20, wherein said object display speed information is encoded in an object by object basis.

**Claim 22:** (Previously Added) The image decoding method according to claim 21, wherein said object display speed information allows for each object to correspond to an independent object display speed.

**Claim 23:** (Previously Added) The image decoding device of claim 6, wherein said object display speed information is encoded in an object by object basis.

**Claim 24:** (Previously Added) The image decoding device of claim 23, wherein said object display speed information allows for each object to correspond to an independent object display speed.

E' **Claim 25** (New) An image decoding device that decodes an encoded data bit stream formed by encoding images for each object, comprising:

a start code analyzer to determine a start code from said encoded bit stream, wherein said start code indicates a header information area;

a header analysis device to receive said header information area to determine object display speed information indicating a number of objects displayed per unit time;

a plurality of decoders to decode a plurality of VOP data sets in said encoded data bit stream; and

a video composition means to synthesize said plurality of VOP data sets according to said object display speed information.

**Claim 26** (New) The image decoding device, wherein said start code analyzer outputs said bit streams to components within said image decoding device according to said start code, said components including said header analysis device.

E ' **Claim 27** (New) The decoding device according to claim 6, wherein said layer above the VOP is a VOL.

**Claim 28** (New) The decoding method according to claim 20, wherein said layer above the VOP is a VOL.

**Claim 29** (New) An image decoding device which decodes an encoded bit stream formed by encoding images for each object, comprising:

display speed information decoding means for decoding a header information area of the encoded bit stream to restore display speed information, the display speed information being included as a codeword in the header information area for a layer that is above a VOP and comprises a plurality of VOPs, to indicate a number of VOPs displayed per a unit time.

**Claim 30** (New) An image decoding device which decodes an encoded bit stream formed by encoding images for each object comprising:

5 VOP rate information decoding means for decoding a header information area of the encoded bit stream to restore the VOP rate speed information, the VOP rate speed information being included as a codeword in the header information area for a layer that is above a VOP and comprises a plurality of VOPs, to indicate a number of VOPs displayed per a unit time when the rate is fixed.

**Claim 31** (New) An image decoding method for decoding an encoded bit stream formed by encoding images for each object, comprising the steps of:

decoding a header information area of the encoded bit stream to restore display speed information, the display speed information being included as a codeword in the header information area for a layer that is above a VOP and comprises a plurality of VOPs, to indicate a number of VOPs displayed per a unit time.

**Claim 32** (New) An image decoding method for decoding an encoded bit stream formed by encoding images for each object, comprising the steps of:

6' decoding a header information area of the encoded bit stream to restore VOP rate information, the VOP rate information being included as a codeword in the header information area for a layer that is above a VOP and comprises a plurality of VOPs, to indicate a number of VOPs displayed per a unit time when the rate is fixed.

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